

Application Serial No. 10/542,077
Reply to Office Action of March 19, 2009

JUN 19 2009

PATENT
Docket: CU-4322

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims presented below replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1. – 20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) A container with an auto-opening lid comprising a container main body having a take-out port for a content, a lid attached to the container main body so as to open and close the take-out port, a lid urging device interposed between the container main body and the lid for urging the lid in an opening direction, and an operation member attached to the container main body in the state that the operation member can be operated between a close position at which it is meshed with the lid and keeps the lid in a closed state against the lid urging device and an open position at which the operation member is released from the lid meshed therewith, wherein:

a locking member is attached to the operation member, the locking member being movable between a locking position and a release position, when the locking member is at the locking position, the locking member is meshed with a lid that is in the closed state and the locking member is abutted against a locking surface of the container main body, thereby to make it impossible for the operation member to be operated from the close position to the open position, and

when the locking member is at the release position, the locking member is separated from the lid that is in the closed state and from the locking surface of the container main body and permits the operation member to be operated from the close position to the open position, and

wherein an operation surface, which is exposed to an outside surface side of the container main body, is formed to the operation member, and the locking member is disposed so as to be movable between the locking position and the release position on a back surface side of the operation surface,

wherein the operation member is disposed so as to move from the close position to the open position by depressing the operation surface, and the locking member is disposed so as to move between the locking position and the release position in the state that it is supported by the operation member as to the direction

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in which the operation surface is depressed, and

further wherein a guide surface, which is in contact with the locking member, is formed on the back surface side of the operation member as well as a spring portion, which protrudes from the guide surface and urges the operation member to the close position, is disposed to the back surface side thereof, and the locking member is supported so as to be slidable between the locking position and the release position while being in contact with the guide surface by being inserted into a first groove portion formed in the spring portion.

22. (New) A container with an auto-opening lid according to claim 21, comprising an extraction prevention device for preventing the locking member from being extracted from the first groove portion of the operation member.

23. (New) A container with an auto-opening lid according to claim 22, wherein a shaft portion, which is divided by a slit, is disposed on the back surface side of the operation member, a second groove portion, which is engaged with the shaft portion, is formed to the locking member so as to open in the direction in which the locking member is inserted into the second groove portion of the operation member, and a pawl portion as the extraction prevention device, which reduces the width of the groove, is disposed in the groove.

24. (New) A container with an auto-opening lid according to claim 23, wherein the second groove portion of the locking member is partitioned by the pawl portion to a first holding portion, to which the shaft portion is fitted when the locking member is located at the release position, and a second holding portion to which the shaft portion is fitted when the locking member is located at the locking position.

25. (New) A container with an auto-opening lid according to claim 22, wherein a stepped portion is disposed on the back surface side of the operation member, and a protruding stopper as the extraction prevention device is disposed on the surface of the locking member confronting the operation member, the stopper being capable of being engaged with the stepped portion as to the direction in which the locking member is extracted from the first groove portion of the operation member as well as

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extending in a wedge state as to the direction in which the locking member is
inserted into a second groove portion of the operation member.

26. (New) A container with an auto-opening lid according to claim 22, wherein a pawl
portion is disposed on the locking member.